

Glossary

100-year floodplain - the area inundated by the 1 percent annual chance (or 100-year) flood.

agricultural licensing - Some parcels or portions of parcels designated for other purposes or uses may also be suitable for interim agricultural licensing. These parcels have been identified, using the criteria contained in TVA's agriculture instruction. Normal tenure for a TVA agricultural license is five years. Land with extreme erosion potential may not be licensed for agricultural use unless erosion and sediment controls, including the use of BMPs, can be successfully implemented. Further investigation and/or mitigation of adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources may be required prior to approval of license agreements.

attainment areas - Those areas of the U. S. that meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards as determined by measurements of air pollutant levels.

autogenic - Source of groundwater recharge from the soil infiltration of surface water.

benthic - refers to the bottom of a stream, river, or reservoir.

carbon dioxide - A colorless, odorless, nonpoisonous gas that is normally a part of the ambient air.

cumulative impacts - impacts which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions (40 CFR 1508.7).

dam reservation - lands generally maintained in a park-like setting by TVA to protect the integrity of the dam structure, hydroelectric facilities, and navigation lock. The reservation also provides for public visitor access to the TVA dam facilities and recreation opportunities, such as public boat access, bank fishing, camping, picnicking, etc.

deciduous trees - trees which shed their leaves at the end of the growing season.

direct impacts - effects which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40CFR 1508.4).

dissolved oxygen - the oxygen dissolved in water, necessary to sustain aquatic life. It is usually measure in milligrams per liter or parts per million.

drawdown - area of reservoirs exposed between full summer pool and minimum winter pool levels during annual drawdown of the water level for flood control.

dredging - the removal of material from an underwater location, primarily for deepening harbors and waterways.

embayment - a bay or arm of the reservoir.

emergent wetland - wetlands dominated by erect, rooted herbaceous plants such as cattails and bulrush.

endangered species - Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portions of its range or territory.

fecal coliform - common intestinal bacteria in human and animal waste.

floodplains - any land area susceptible to inundation by water from any source by a flood of selected frequency. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the floodplain, as a minimum, is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding (100-year flood) in any given year.

flowage easement tracts - privately owned lakeshore properties where TVA has (1) the right to flood the land as part of its reservoir operations, (2) no rights for vegetation management, and (3) the authority to control structures, under Section 26a of the TVA Act.

fragmentation - the process of breaking up a large area of relatively uniform habitat into one or more smaller, disconnected areas.

indirect impacts - effects which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR 1508.4).

level of service - a qualitative measure that incorporates the collective factors of speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver, safety, driving comfort and convenience, and operating volume condition.

macroinvertebrates - aquatic insects, snails, and mussels whose species, genus, etc., can be determined with the naked eye.

mainstream reservoirs - impoundments created by dams constructed across the Tennessee River.

marginal strip - the narrow strip of land owned by TVA between the water's edge and the adjoining private property, on which the property owner may construct private water-use facilities upon approval of plans by TVA.

maximum shoreline contour - an elevation typically 5 feet above the top of the gates of a TVA dam. It is often the property boundary between TVA marginal strip property and adjoining private property.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) - Uniform, national air quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency that restrict ambient levels of certain pollutants to protect public health (primary standards) or public welfare (secondary standards). Standards have been set for ozone, carbon monoxide, particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide, and lead.

National Environmental Policy Act - legislation signed into law in 1970 which, among other provisions, requires U.S. government agencies to prepare environmental reviews on proposed policies, procedures, plans, approvals, and other proposed federal actions. Approval of a private water-use facility or sale of an easement to use federal land are examples of federal actions subject to NEPA.

neotropical migrant birds - birds which nest in the United States or Canada and migrate to spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America.

parent material - the unconsolidated mass of rock material from which the soil profile develops.

physiographic provinces - general divisions of land with each area having characteristic combinations of soil materials and topography.

plan tract - a numbered parcel of TVA fee-owned land which, prior to the plan, has had no long-term commitments affecting future land uses as assigned through the reservoir land planning process.

prime farmland - generally regarded as the best land for farming, these areas are flat or gently rolling and are usually susceptible to little or no soil erosion. Prime farmland produces the most food, feed, fiber, forage, and oil seed crops with the least amount of fuel, fertilizer, and labor. It combines favorable soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply and, under careful management, can be farmed continuously and at a high level of productivity without degrading either the environment or the resource base. Prime farmland does not include land already in or committed to urban development, roads, or water storage.

riparian zone - an area of land that has vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Typically a streamside zone or shoreline edge.

riprap - stones placed along the shoreline for bank stabilization and other purposes.

riverine - having characteristics similar to a river.

Section 26a review process - Section 26a of the TVA Act requires TVA review and approval of plans for obstructions such as docks, fills, bridges, outfalls, water intakes, and riprap before they are constructed across, in or along the Tennessee River and its tributaries. Applications for this approval are coordinated appropriately with TVA programs and USACE. USACE issues a joint public notice for those applications that are not covered by a USACE nationwide, general, or regional permit. The appropriate state water pollution control agency must also certify that the effluent from outfalls meets the applicable water quality standards.

scrub-shrub - woody vegetation less than about 20 feet tall. Species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.

shoreline - the line where the water of a TVA reservoir meets the shore when the water level is at the normal summer pool elevation.

SMZ (Shoreline Management Zone) - a barrier of permanent vegetation established or left undisturbed around a reservoir in order to buffer the adverse impacts resulting from development and increased human activity.

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significant cultural resources - Some of the parcel descriptions state that "the parcel contains significant cultural resources" or that "cultural resource considerations may affect development of the parcel." However, many of the parcel descriptions contain no reference to archaeological or other cultural resources. The lack of such references within a parcel description does not necessarily indicate that significant cultural resources do not exist. The use of any parcel for developmental purposes may require additional archaeological testing or mitigation of adverse impact to archaeological sites. The costs of required testing or mitigation would be the responsibility of the developer.

stratification - the seasonal layering of water within a reservoir due to differences in temperature or chemical characteristics of the layers.

substrates - the base or material to which a plant is attached and from which it receives nutrients.

summer pool elevation - the normal upper level to which the reservoirs may be filled. Where storage space is available above this level, additional filling may be made as needed for flood control.

tributary reservoirs - impoundments created by dams constructed across streams and rivers that eventually flow into the Tennessee River.

turbidity - all the organic and inorganic living and nonliving materials suspended in a water column. Higher levels of turbidity affect light penetration and typically decrease productivity of water bodies.

upland - the higher parts of a region, not closely associated with streams or lakes.

wetlands - as defined in TVA Environmental Review Procedures, "Wetlands are those areas inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do or would support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonably saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, mud flats, and natural ponds.